THE DES MOINES COMIC CLUB PRESENTS

IT'S A FANZINE!

1 AUG
35¢

PREMIERE ISSUE

Inside:

MIKE NASSER INDEX

FAN CLUB NEWS

GREG ROBERTSON UNLEASHED

EDITORIAL

It's A Beginning

Welcome to the first publication from the all new Des Moines Comic Club. This mini-fanzine will consist of contributions from club members and readers, special features like artist indexes and polls, artwork, and occasionally ads. Sooner or later almost all contributions will be used, although with artwork we'd like finished pencil and ink drawings of established characters. We'd like to stir up a little controversy from time to time (Greg Robertson's new column will undoubtedly lead the way in that regard) and we encourage letters of comment as we'll probably have a short letters column in the future. Also, feel free to suggest a new title for this zine if you don't like the one we've got, as I'm sure we'll go through many changes in the coming months. And please vote in our poll on page 7. I'd like to receive a strong representative sampling of Des Moines fans' favorite comics. I think we've got an interesting little fanzine here and I hope it'll receive enough support so we can keep it coming for many months to come.

Gene Kehoe

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

The first meeting of the Des Moines Comic Club was held Sunday, July 13, at Beggar's Banquet next to the Comiclogue. Plans for the club were discussed and officers were named. I'm Dennis Johnston, secretary of the club. Mark Metz was named president of the club and Dan Wren treasurer.

Our club will be meeting the second Sunday of every month at 2:00 P.M. The second meeting is scheduled then for Aug. 10 at Witmer Park near 35th and College. They have a shelter if necessary. We have fourteen members in the club right now and we would encourage new people to come and join to help make our club great and successful. Dues are $5.00 a year. The money will primarily be used to publish our fanzine/newsletter as this can't be done cheaply in this day and age and all club members receive a copy free each month.

In addition to the above, we discussed the possibility of holding a market place in Des Moines sometime next year. Fans from throughout Iowa would gather to buy, sell, and trade comics. See you all Aug. 10.

DES MOINES COMIC CLUB PRESENTS:
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Des Moines Comic Club Membership Role: Jim Asbille, Mark Danford, Tony Davis, Rick Hubbard, Dennis Johnston, Steven Jones, Gene Kehoe, Ken King, Mark Metz, Pat Price, Greg Robertson, Mike Sangster, John Williamson, and Dan Wren.

Greg Robertson: Spotlight on DC

Since Marvel is over-publicized, I thought I'd write a column on DC and give them some well deserved publicity. Besides, Lee-lovers, you just might find something of interest. Now on with the show.

In my opinion, reviving the Teen Titans is sheer lunacy. The Titans always were pretty bad, what with ridiculous dialogue (no kid I knew back in the 60's ever talked that way outside of a Bob Haney comic or on TV) and totally inane villains like the Mad Mod. They could revive Buzzy instead. He couldn't be any worse. No, really, they should give Atom or Hawkman their own mags again. They were not only better characters, but more popular as well. Oh well, I guess they had to make Larry Talbot...oops, Marv Wolfman happy.

Awkwardman

The most under-rated artist award should go to Curt Swan. He has been turning out exceptional artwork for at least 25 years and has never gotten the recognition he deserves. The main reason is because he works on Superman and Superman can't be any good because 'Unca' Stan told us so, right kiddies? Granted Curt doesn't use any fancy tricks or play games. None of this "Hey, a Jim Steranko effect" stuff for him. But for good solid craftsmanship he can't be beat.

Blimp

Now that Roy Thomas is at DC maybe they'll give him the JLA. Something has to be done before Conway completely kills it. Roy is at his best with team action and would be very good. I wish the JLA would get rid of Supie and Bats. They hog all the action and don't give the little guys a break. And wouldn't you love to strangle the guy who came up with Zatanna's new costume. Ecch!!!

One of DC's most under-rated titles is Inferior Five, a hilarious satire of super-heroes. They lasted through three issues of Showcase and ten issues of their own book in 1966-68. Better than the similar Not Brand Echh, it was written by ex-Mad writer E.Nelson Bridwell. All issues were good, but the best were #2 with the Kookie Quartet (Mr. Manplastic, Whatchamacallit, the Matchstick Kid and Vanishing Queen), #3 with Darwin of the Apes searching the lost city of Oompah for Dr. Livingroom, #7 -- a sewer tour with Art Carney, Submoron, Iron Pants, the Cobweb Kid, and Allergy Queem; and the real gem, #6, a take-off on DC itself. This screamingly funny comic featured Mort Weisinger's new celebrity comic, an uproarious staff meeting with Bob Kanigher using a bayonet on a hero sandwich, and a pen fight between Sol Harrison and Jack Adler. Great stuff. Mike Sekowsky even had guts enough to do a self portrait. Try an issue or three.

White Feather

Dumb Bunny

(continued on page 8)

A MIKE NASSER CHECKLIST

compiled by gene kehoe

Mike is a very talented young artist from Detroit who got his start in comics after meeting Neal Adams at a convention. Neal directed Mike to Continuity Studios, Neal's comic workshop for young artists. This led to doing splash pages for Marvel's British comics and then over to DC where he's done most of his work. In the immediate future Mike's art will appear in the adaptation of the musical "Xanadu" in Marvel Super Special #17 and in a Vision solo in Marvel Spotlight.

D.C.

ADVENTURE
449 Austin inks/6p./Martian Manhunter
450 Austin inks/6p./Martian Manhunter
451 Austin inks/6p./Martian Manhunter
466 Colletta inks/12p./Flash

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
81 Wiacek inks/17p.
82 Rubinstein inks/17p.(plus: a 1-pg. profile on Mike and a self-portrait illo)

DC SPECIAL SERIES
1 Rubinstein inks/17p./Batman & Kobra (5-Star Super-Hero Spectacular)
10 inks Staton/8p./Doctor Fate (Secret Origins of Super-Heroes)
15 Rubinstein inks/30p./Batman (Batman Spectacular 1978)

DC SUPERSTARS (of Magic)
11 Austin inks/2 illos/Zatanna & Houdini

HOUSE OF MYSTERY
276 inks himself/6p.

ISIS
2 Giacoia inks/5p.

KAMANDI
45 Rubinstein inks/6p./Tales of the Great Disaster
46 Rubinstein inks/6p./Tales of the Great Disaster

KOBRA
6 Rubinstein inks/17p.
7 Rubinstein inks/17p.

SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE
24 Colletta inks/3p.

STAR HUNTERS
3 Layton inks/17p.

SUPERBOY & the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
222 Layton inks/6p.
225 Wiacek inks/6p.
226 Abel inks/6p./Brainiac 5
230 Abel inks/6p./Bouncing Boy
231 Abel inks/18p.
233 Layton inks/10p./Princess Projectra
236 Rubinstein & Bryant inks/8p./Mon-El

TIME WARP
4 inks himself/6p.

WONDER WOMAN
232 Colletta inks/17p.

WORLD'S FINEST
244 Austin inks/10p./Black Canary
Austin inks/10p./Green Arrow
245 Austin inks/10p./Green Arrow
Austin inks/10p./Black Canary
246 Austin inks/10p./Black Canary
Austin inks/10p./Green Arrow
259 Rogers layouts, Colletta inks/10p./Black Lightning
260 Colletta inks/17p./Black Lightning

MARVEL

GHOST RIDER
35 inks Starlin, pgs. 1-6

HOWARD THE DUCK
16 Austin inks/ 1p.

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT
33 Janson inks, Buckler & Jones also pencil/17p./Deathlok

MARVEL TALES
100 Austin inks/6p./Hawkeye & Two-Gun Kid

MARVEL TEAM-UP
89 Rubinstein inks/13p.(Buckler pencilled other 4pgs.)/Spider-Man & Nightcrawler

STAR TREK
7 Janson inks/17p.

MAGAZINES

CRAWDADDY
Oct,1977 2p. centerspread of Bjorn Borg

INTERNATIONAL INSANITY
2 Rubinstein inks/5p.

1984
5 Alcala inks/8p.

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN
20 Giordano inks/1p.
29 inks Patterson/1p.

FANZINES

CHARLTON BULLSEYE
5 Abel inks/2p.

FOOM
14 Giordano ink/1p.

HOT STUFF
6 story & art by Mike

STAR*REACH
12 8p.

COVERS

Adventures On the Planet of the Apes #7. Chamber of Chills #24. Challengers #81-2. Defenders #88. Kobra #6-7. Shazam! #35. Star Trek #7. Spectacular Spidey #37. Wonder Woman #231-232. Amazing World of DC #15. A-Plus #1. All-Star Comics Review. Comic Reader #140,142.

STARSPAWN portfolio

COLLECTORS RECOLLECT

Mark Danford's story

It is a privilege to be able to express my thoughts on the subject of comic books, especially to those of you who have the same interests.

The first comic book that I truly read was Sgt. Fury #1, loaned to me by a friend. It spurred my interest in a field in which 17 years later I still find enjoyment. I was so impressed by the Kirby artwork in Marvel titles such as Sgt. Fury, Fantastic Four, Journey Into Mystery (starring Thor), and the X-Men that to this day picking up one of those comics from the middle 60's is like going back in time.

For those of you who were reading comic books during the 60's, you must remember the poor distribution. I can still picture the disappointment in not being able to find current issues of my favorites. What made it even worse was the fact that the stories were continued in such titles as Tales of Suspense and Tales to Astonish, which each contained two separate stories per issue. I would ride my bicycle to every drug or grocery store in the neighborhood in search of scarce issues.

It was however a blessing that distribution was poor. It made the devout comic fan purchase other titles simply because you couldn't find what you really wanted. It was in this manner that I started reading DC titles such as Hawkman, Mystery In Space, and G.I. Combat.

Comic books during the later 60's seemed to be enjoying a rebirth. Both DC and Marvel were creating new titles. Demand was increasing. Marvel took their two-series comics and gave them each their own book, resulting in new titles for Iron Man, Cap, Hulk, Dr. Strange, Agent Of SHIELD, and Sub-mariner. Silver Surfer and Captain Marvel also got their own books in 1968. This put quite a financial strain on a person with a meager allowance. In several instances I had to quit buying titles simply because I couldn't afford them.

I kept my original comic book collection through high school but didn't buy any new issues for almost three years. It was at this time that I learned of a small comic convention at Lamoni, Iowa. I drove down with the belief that there couldn't be that much interest in comic books! What I found were hundreds of fans, collectors, and dealers buying, selling, and trading comics. The old expression about a kid in a candy shop certainly applied here. My old interests reemerged the minute I left. It was at that point that I decided to complete a collection of all the Marvel titles that meant so much to me years earlier.

I now have just about completed that collection, and am looking forward to the day when I can sit down and read a comic book series from the first issue to the latest with no interruption. Des Moines now has a store devoted to comics, so you can keep a collection current with little trouble. A lot of us remember when things were different.

(Readers and club members are invited to submit your own personal stories of what inspired you to start collecting comics. The best and most unusual will see print. -- Editor.)

SWAMP THING: the Wrightson Issues

by Mike Sangster

Of all the comics of the early 70's, none had the impact of SWAMP THING. Berni Wrightson was the artist and Len Wein the writer. The best in the business. No one could match Wrightson's style. He had an eerie effect in his drawings which was perfect for the comic. He is truly one of the best storytellers, with his imaginative use of panels and angles. Combined with these talents was the ability to draw Swamp Thing like nobody else could. For the time, Len Wein's stories were the best, the perfect match for Wrightson. His stories made you feel sorry for the huge unbearable mass of muck. The stories flowed with a continuity that kept the comic alive.

In the first issue, "Dark Genesis", Dr. Alec Holland was working on a new bio-restorative formula which would "be used to create gardens out of sweltering deserts". But then, like in all comics, there are the bad guys. They wanted Dr. Holland to sell the bio-restorative formula to them for their own selfish purposes. Holland refused their offer so he was made to pay the price -- a price which was supposed to be his death. But Alec found the bomb they had planted before it went off. He tried to defuse it, but a beaker containing the bio-restorative formula shattered in the process, allowing the formula to seep into Alec's skin. The bomb exploded, leaving Alec in flames, running for comfort to the ever present swamp. He emerged days later to find that maybe he had paid the price, only worse. "In that frightening mind-shattering second (it) knows what it has become! A muck-encrusted shambling mockery of life ... a twisted caricature of humanity that can only be called ... Swamp Thing." Still, he had yet one more price to pay, the price of his wife's death. His beloved Linda, the only thing in the world he cared for, was now dead. His once blood, now bio-restorative formula, ran through his veins with hatred and revenge. A revenge which was fulfilled by killing the murderers of Alec and Linda Holland.

Next: The Man Who Wanted Forever

OPINION SURVEY

What do Des Moines comic fans like? Well, we're going to find out. This issue's poll concerns only favorite comics and favorite characters. A future survey will quiz you on who your favorite writers and artists are. Except for the first category, please vote for your favorites of all time, not just current favorites. Vote for 3 in each category in order of preference. Black and white and full-color magazines are eligible, as are undergrounds and ground level comics. Here are the categories: (1) Favorite Current Comic Books. (2) Favorite Comic Book Series or Title of all time. (3) Favorite Individual Stories - give issue # (or #s in case of continued story). (4) Favorite Covers. (5) Favorite Individual Comic Book Character. (6) Favorite Super Hero Group. (7) Favorite Supporting Character.

Remember to vote for 3 in each category and return your votes to the Comiclogue by Aug. 30. The results will be in issue 3.

ON THE STANDS

Instead of a News & Coming Attractions section like every other fanzine offers, only we dare present a column featuring highlights of comics currently on sale. Let's see what's out there: JLA #184 - George Perez takes over the art, Darkseid & New Gods star. Moon Knight #1 - Moench & Sienkiewicz begin a series that promises to be a big fan favorite. DC Comics Presents #27 - Supe & Martian Manhunter star in part 1 of a 3-part Wein/Starlin cosmic saga. X-Men #138 - history of X-Men, Cyclops quits in grief over death of Jean/Phoenix in #137. Warlord #38 - Warlord's daughter shows up in Skartaris; phone co. taking over world in Starlin's Omac backup. Avengers #200 - weird story of the birth and life of Ms. Marvel's baby. Thor #300 - jam-packed with everything, an issue critical to the Marvel mythos. Brave & Bold #167 - Blackhawks return with original Batman in WW2 by Wolfman/Cockrum. Marvel Premiere #56 - color comic debut of Dominic Fortune, Chaykin/Austin art. Ghost Rider #50 - double-size, meets Night Rider. Green Lantern #133 - Wolfman debuts with a new personality for Hal. Epic #3 - Gulacy, Starlin, Thomas & Conrad's Almuric, Thomas & Russell's Elric. Conan #115 - 75¢ size, Roy's last regular issue, Red Sonja guests. Fantasy Masterpieces #11 - reprints Starlin's classic Warlock story "1000 Clowns", plus Silver Surfer. New Teen Titans #1 - a new more diversified TT by Wolfman/Perez. X-Men Annual #4 - in Hades, art by Romita Jr./McLeod. Creepy #121 - all J.Severin art. Finally, on sale now, Aunt May is bitten by a radioactive spider. Find it if you dare.

SPOTLIGHT ON DC cont. from p.3

By the way, if you have any questions about DC, ask me and I'll try to answer them. That's all for now. In closing, let me quote Bob and Ray. "Write if you get work -- and hang by your thumbs."

Greg Robertson